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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 20, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF FLAKE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

REMEMBERING RICKY WRIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good and decent man, a loyal servant of Texas and my friend, Ricky Wright. Ricky Wright passed away Wednesday, August 1, after a tremendous battle with cancer. Words cannot adequately express the sorrow and disbelief that Susan and I feel, along with every member of our team, at these difficult times.

I met Ricky when I first started running for Congress, and since that time,

Ricky has been at my side as a mentor, confidant, and a close friend. While Ricky was employed as my district director, he served the people of District 11.

This service to his neighbors was a task he lived every day. Ricky routinely logged hundreds of miles a week, drove to every corner of District 11. Through his work, he touched the lives of thousands of Texans. There was no problem in our district that was too small for his attention or too big for his talents.

During these travels, Ricky never once met a stranger. With his easy smile and open demeanor, Ricky would make everyone feel like they'd been his friend for a lifetime. But during all these travels and meetings, too many to count, he never forgot that his home was Comanche, Texas.

Comanche is ever much a part of Ricky as his fingers and his toes. It was the community he was raised in, the community that taught him the character and morals that would guide his life. Perhaps that is also where he inherited his stubborn streak. Ricky had a confidence in the possibilities that could be, in spite of the limited vision of those around him. You could see this in him every day as he quietly refused to yield to mediocrity or to compromise his principles.

It was his stubbornness that set Ricky apart from the crowd, and that's where I believe he was most comfortable, just a little further up the path, showing the rest of us the way. Today, Ricky is still just a little further up the path showing us the way as he showed us how he carried himself in the face of those deep difficulties toward the end of his life.

We'll remember Ricky as he would want to be remembered, a faithful friend, a tireless worker whose hopeful, idealistic, daring, and decent way of life inspired us all. To those of us who knew him and worked with him, he was

like family, and his loss will be felt every time we gather together without him. He'll never be replaced or forgotten, and I ask you for your prayers for Ricky and his family and those of us who loved him.

I miss my friend.

STILL FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there have been two struggles to make American democracy work. First was who would be eligible to vote. Originally, only those who were white, male, property owners over 21, voted, perhaps a quarter of the population.

More than three-quarters of a century later, having fought the civil war, African Americans were granted the franchise. It would be another two-thirds of a century before voting rights were extended to women.

Finally, in a battle that I was proud to be a part of as a college student, campaigning and testifying before Congress, we adopted the XXVI amendment, extending the voting rights to young people at age 18.

But there's always been another battle: Who amongst the theoretically eligible voters are actually able to cast their ballot and have it counted?

It's no secret the States in the Old South waged a brutal extra-legal war to prevent newly enfranchised African Americans from voting. The discrimination, intimidation and violence are well-chronicled; and it's why, almost a century after African Americans were given the legal right to vote, we still need the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to really give them the vote supposedly guaranteed under the Constitution.

Despite the Voting Rights Act, and two centuries of struggle, there's still

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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